



## Background

The National Park Service Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program was established in 2001 through an Act of Congress (Public Law 106-45) to assist local, state, tribal, and federal agencies; nonprofit organizations; private individuals in establishing priorities for the preservation of historic Route 66. The program provides grants, technical assistance, and clearinghouse services to assist with historic preservation activities, as well as research, oral history, interpretation, and educational outreach. Through collaboration and partnerships, the program helps to stimulate business, economic growth, and community revitalization across 36 congressional districts, and eight states through which the route passes. FY2005 represents the fifth year of program operations. The program will legislatively terminate in 2009, at which time other organizations will assume program responsibilities, or the program will be re-authorized by Congress. A summary of Fiscal Year 2005 activities are as follows.

## Budget

The program's enabling legislation has authorized up to \$10 million in federal appropriations to carry out program activities through 2009. Actual appropriations to date total \$1.68 million.

\$298,000 was authorized for program expenses in FY2005, to include grant awards, two full-time staff salaries, travel, special projects, and administrative costs.

## Partnerships

The program actively pursues partnerships to accomplish its goals. In FY2005, program staff held over 50 community and individual meetings, presentations, and workshops for the purpose of building partnerships and raising awareness about the NPS program. These forums have resulted in enthusiastic and valuable input related to the identification and prioritization of preservation needs, and has helped to stimulate awareness and action at local, state, and national levels. The goal is to facilitate planning and action among partners toward the long-term protection and commemoration of Route 66 resources.

## Clearinghouse Functions

The Program serves as a point of contact for Route 66 preservation information. Information is disseminated through many means as defined by the program's publicity and public outreach plan. All information provided is intended to address the unique needs of historic highways and Route 66. Specific activities include:

- Management of program website
- Management of Route 66 library and preservation-related materials
- Addressing general and technical information requests
- Production of annual newsletter, brochures, special reports, and a Directory of Financial and Technical Resources
- Development of an inventory database
- Development of Historic Route 66 National Register of Historic Places Travel Itinerary



Top: Route 66 near Geary, Oklahoma.

Middle: Recently restored neon at Del's Restaurant in Tucumcari, New Mexico.

Bottom: Route 66 Preservation Workshop at the Aztec Hotel in Monrovia, California.



**Top:** Field visit to Route 66 road segment during an Oklahoma Department of Transportation Route 66 Preservation Workshop.

**Bottom:** Department of Transportation personnel assist with graffiti removal at a Route 66 site near La Bajada Hill in New Mexico.

## Technical Assistance

Program staff provides limited technical assistance. In FY2005, staff made numerous site visits, and addressed hundreds phone and email inquiries. Technical assistance includes cursory building inspections, treatment advice, project monitoring, and community preservation planning consultation, and corridor management plan review.

## Cost-Share Grant Assistance

The program provides cost-share grant assistance to eligible historic preservation projects. Grant assistance is also provided for research, oral history, interpretation, and educational purposes. Grants are offered through an annual, competitive grant cycle. Since the programs inception in 2001, \$2.6 million in grant requests have been submitted. Sixty-two projects have been awarded \$928,000, based on funding availability.

In FY2005, 19 eligible applications requesting \$291,189 were submitted. Eleven projects were selected for a total award of \$112,157.

## Special Projects

The program undertakes special projects at its discretion, based on demonstrated need and available resources. Special projects undertaken in FY2005 included the following:

- National Register nominations were prepared for 20 historic sites on Route 66, which have been submitted to respective State Historic Preservation Offices for review and forwarding to the Keeper of the National Register for listing consideration.
- A preservation workshop was organized and conducted at the Aztec Hotel, in Monrovia California. Twenty-one representatives from local, state, and federal agencies; nonprofits; and private business owners were in attendance.
- The project "Documenting the American Indian Experience of Route 66" was conceived, planned, and implemented in collaboration with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office. The project culminated in, 1) the identification of tribal contacts interested in Route 66 preservation and interpretation, 2) an annotated bibliography of existing relevant literature, 3) a database of historic Route 66 properties on tribal lands, and 4) a project summary report.
- Emergency action was taken in collaboration with the New Mexico Department of Transportation to remove graffiti applied to a culturally and environmentally sensitive area of Route 66 on US Forest Service Land near La Bajada, New Mexico.

## Conclusion

Overall, the program continues to make progress in raising awareness about the history and significance of Route 66, and in assisting individuals, communities and government agencies preserve and promote the historic resources of the route. As the program enters its sixth year, it looks forward to working with the recently established Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program Federal Advisory Council, which will review and provide recommendations on activities and goals relating to its remaining four years of service.



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